

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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CG-00 IO-15 ACDA-19 INT-08 COA-02 COME-00 PRS-01 /121 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, AR, US, MARR, XV

SUBJ: ANTARCTICA: AGREEMENT ON MARAMBIO AIRFIELD

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7021, 6727, 5843

1. FYI: WHILE WE CONTINUE PREFER GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED BY FONOFF AS SUPERIOR INSTRUMENT FOR (A) PROTECTION OF US INTEREST IN EQUIPMENT AND (B) PRESERVATION OF US POSITION THAT ANTARCTICA IS TERRA NULLIUS, IN VIEW OF INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN REFTELS WE PREPARED FOLLOW PROCEDURE FOR EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES WHICH WOULD DESIGNATE AND AUTHORIZE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND ARGENTINE AIR FORCE AS COMPETENT AGENCIES TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENT AS SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAM OR PROJECT FALLING UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND ALSO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TERRITORIAL EMPHASIS IN BILATERAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, IMMATERIAL HOW ARGENTINES INTERPRET AUTHORIZATION FROM THEIR INTERNAL STANDPOINT. ALSO, WE THINK IT DESIRABLE IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES THAT THERE BE DISCLAIMER OF ANY PREJUDICE TO ARTICLE IV OF ANTARCTIC TREATY. END FYI
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2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM FONOFF US PREPARED INITIATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AUTHORIZING NSF AND AAF NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AIRFIELD AT MARAMBIO. ALSO, EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE WE DO NOT DESIRE REFERENCE

TO BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ALTHOUGH IMMATERIAL HOW ARGENTINA VIEWS AUTHORIZATION FROM ITS INTERNAL STANDPOINT. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO INDICATE WE DESIRE BRIEF SENTENCE IN NOTE THAT AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ARTICLE IV OF ANTARCTIC TREATY. POSSIBLE DRAFT OF NOTE TO ARGENTINE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS SET FORTH IN NEXT PARAGRAPH.

3. NOTE: EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO DISCUSSIONS REGARDING COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AN AIRFIELD AT MARAMBIO.

I AM INSTRUCTED TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO NEGOTIATE AND CONCLUDE WITH THE AGENCY AUTHORIZED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT AN ARRANGEMENT REGARDING COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF AN AIRFIELD AT MARAMBIO.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT CONCLUDED SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AND MOREOVER IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ARTICLE IV THEREOF.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY REPORT FONOFF RESPONSE BEFORE INITIATING EXCHANGE OF NOTES. RUSH

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